

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 5-8 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-4 are rejected.

FORMAL MATTERS:

The Examiner asserts that the PTO's scanned application papers include only the front page of each priority document and requests that Applicants submit complete copies of the priority documents. The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 10/173,867. Applicants respectfully inform the Examiner that copies of the priority documents were submitted in U.S. Application No. 10/173,867 and are not required to be submitted in the present case.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants amend the claims to address the rejection. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is requested to be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

- Claims 1, 3, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US 6,462,905). The Examiner notes the guide ribs 28.
- Claims 1, 3, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuyuki et al. (US 2002/0181152). The Examiner notes the guide ribs 2H.

- Claims 1, 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (US 6,680,818). The Examiner notes the guide ribs 28.
- Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuyuki et al. (US 6,581,866). The Examiner notes the guide ribs 28.
- Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (US 6,563,671). In regard to claim 2, the Examiner notes the guide ribs on the last teeth adjacent the holes 126 (Fig. 11) and the enlarged gap.

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks.

The beneficial combination of claimed features provide a novel and unobvious cartridge that is not disclosed by the prior art. Features of the present invention not disclosed by the references include, for example, at least the guide ribs 2X shown in the exemplary embodiment of Figure 3 and discussed on pgs. 16-17 of the specification. Applicants amend claim 1 to further define the ribs and submit that the applied references do not disclose each of the claimed features, such that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/716,906

Attorney Docket No.: Q78486

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

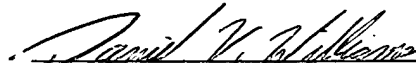
Respectfully submitted,

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